What is claimed is:

1. An electrically conductive additive system comprising:

a liquid component; and

carbon nanofibers dispersed in the liquid component.

2. The additive system of claim 1 further comprising electrically conductive particulate material dispersed in the liquid component.

3. The additive system of claim 2 wherein the electrically conductive particulate material is conductive carbon black.

4. The additive system of claim 1 further comprising a dispersing agent.

5. The additive system of claim 1 wherein the liquid component is selected from the group consisting of polyester grinding vehicles, polyol grinding vehicles, epoxies, plasticizers, monomers, and any combination thereof.

6. The additive system of claim 1 wherein the carbon nanofibers are characterized by having a diameter between about 70 to about 200 nanometers, a length of 50 to 100 microns, graphitic planes having a stacked cone-type structure, and a dispersive surface energy ranging between about 20 to about 285 mJ/m^2.

7. An electrically conductive additive system for use in sheet molding compositions, the additive system comprising:

carbon nanofibers characterized by having a diameter between about 70 to about 200 nanometers, a length of 50 to 100 microns, graphitic planes having a stacked cone-type structure, and a dispersive surface energy ranging between about 20 to about 285 mJ/m^2; and

conductive carbon black.

8. An electrically conductive sheet molding composition comprising:

a thermoset polymeric resin;

carbon nanofibers;

conductive carbon black; and

glass fibers.

9. The composition of claim 8, wherein the thermoset polymeric resin is selected from the group consisting of polystyrene resins, saturated polyester resins, polyurethane resins, epoxy resins, acrylic resins, phenolic resins, polyamide resins, silicones, styrene-butadiene rubber, synthetic rubber, natural rubber, and any combination thereof.

10. The additive system of claim 8 wherein the carbon nanofibers are characterized by having a diameter between about 70 to about 200 nanometers, a length of 50 to 100 microns, graphitic planes having a stacked cone-type structure, and a dispersive surface energy ranging between about 20 to about 285 mJ/m^2.

11. A method of preparing an electrically conductive additive system, the method comprising the steps of:

preparing a first suspension including carbon nanofibers dispersed in a liquid component;

preparing a second suspension including electrically conductive carbon black and a second liquid component; and

mixing the first and second suspension together to form the electrically conductive additive system.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein the step of preparing a first suspension includes de-agglomerating the carbon nanofibers present in the first suspension.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein the de-agglomeration step is accomplished by a three-roll mill.

14. The method of claim 11, wherein the first and second liquid components are substantially the same.